

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING SWITCHED MULTIBEAM
ANTENNAS IN A MULTIPLE ACCESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

Abstract of the Disclosure

In order to increase a capacity, or a number of mobile stations (MSs), or users, that
5 may engaged in concurrent communication sessions, a communication system is provided
that schedules a different MS, or user, in each beam of multiple predetermined, fixed
beams associated with a coverage area, in particular a sector. By simultaneously
scheduling a user in each beam of the multiple beams, a performance and throughput of
communication system is significantly increased over the prior art. In one embodiment of
10 the present invention, a portion of a shared communication channel that is allocated to
each MS is concurrently transmitted to each MS via a beam associated with the MS. In
other embodiments of the present invention, voice channels, data channels, and control
channels associated with each MS scheduled in a beam may be concurrently transmitted
to each MS via the beam associated with the MS.